

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217180

EXDIS/TODEP 90

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: UPDATED TALKING POINTS ON PORTUGAL FOR DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S USE IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PALME

REF: STATE 214708

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE INSERTED AS ADDENDUM
TO "BACKGROUND" SECTION REFTEL: "AS OF MIDNIGHT,
SEPTEMBER 11 LISBON TIME, PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE AZEVEDO
HAD NOT ACHIEVED AGREEMENT ON A GOVERNING COALITION. CON-
TINUED FRICTION BETWEEN THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS AND THE COM-
MUNISTS, AS WELL AS AZEVEDO'S POSSIBLE UNWILLINGNESS TO
ACQUIESCE TO SERIES OF POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS DEMANDED
BY THE SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS AS PRICE OF THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT, MAY HAVE PROVED STUMBLING
BLOCK TO EXPEDITIOUS FORMATION OF NEW CABINET." IN ADDI-
TION TO PRECONDITIONS CITED REFTEL, PPD AND SOCIALISTS ARE
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INSISTING ON INCLUSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ANTUNES GROUP

IN GOVERNMENT COALITION.

2. IN ADDITION TO TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL, SUGGEST, IF APPROPRIATE, THAT FOLLOWING ALSO BE USED: IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI, THE EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT LISBON NEWSPAPER JORNAL NOVO SAID HE HAVING DIFFICULTY

GETTING NEWSPRINT FROM SWEDEN. PROBLEM WAS SAID TO LIE IN RELUCTANCE OF SWEDISH SUPPLIER, SODIPEL, TO ACCEPT JORNAL NOVO'S LETTERS OF CREDIT. WE BELIEVE PALME WILL AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HELPING NON-COMMUNIST PAPERS IN LISBON TO STAY ALIVE AND HOPE THAT HE MIGHT LOOK INTO THIS NEWSPRINT PROBLEM.

3. ALSO, IF PALME RAISES THE SUBJECT OF FORMER PRESIDENT SPINOLA AND THE PORTUGUESE EXILE GROUPS FOR WHICH HE IS THE NOMINAL LEADER, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S BELIEF THAT ANY ACTION IN PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME NOT ONLY WOULD BE DOOMED TO FAILURE BUT WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE RADICAL LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS, THUS UNDERMINING THE GAINS THE MODERATE FORCES SEEM TO HAVE MADE DURING THE PAST WEEK. KISSINGER

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